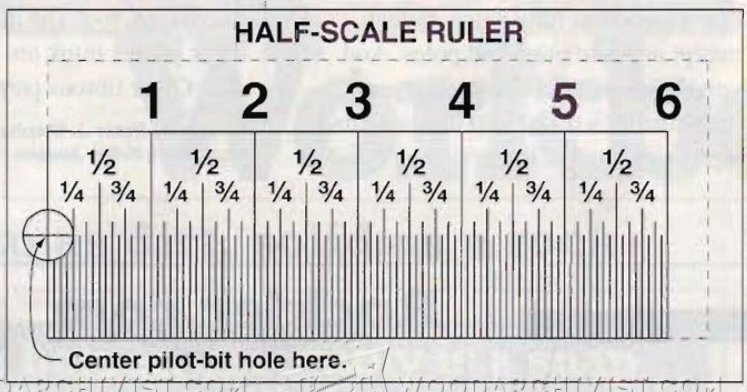
Set your circle cutter without calculating

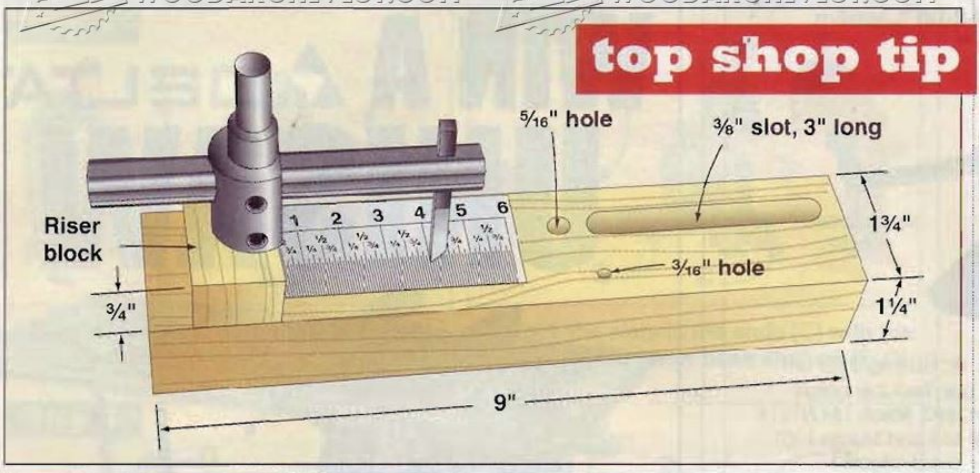
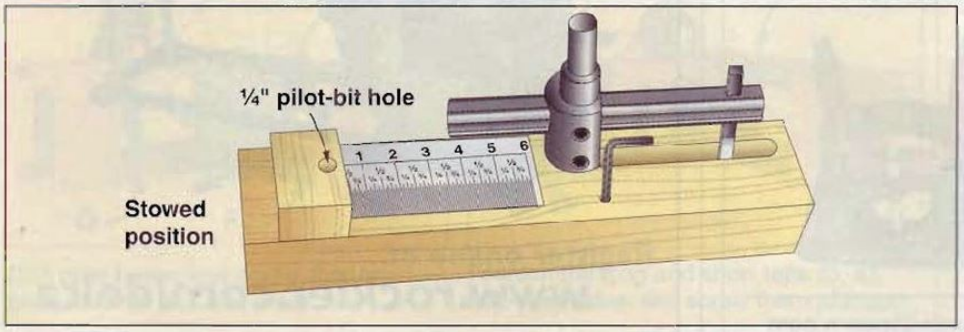
I used to dread using my adjustable circle cutter: I had to figure the radius of the circle (halving odd diameters like 3 7/16" brought out the calculator), then fuss with a ruler, the pilot bit, and cutter to set that radius. It was a pain in the neck and required a lot of tweaking.

To eliminate the headaches, I devised the simple fixture, shown *below*, with a half-scale ruler built right in. After drawing the half-scale on my CAD system, I printed it (you can use the full-size pattern at *right*) and had it laminated at an office-supply store. Then, I attached it to the jig with double-faced tape.

If I need a 3 7/16" circle, I simply insert the pilot bit into the 1/4" hole in the riser block, extend the cutter to the 3 7/16 mark on the half-scale, and lock it in. When I'm done, the cutter and its hexhead wrench store in the jig as shown.

—Bob DiTucci, Wayne, N.J.



WOODARCHIVIST.COM

top shop tip